

**BOBBY JINDAL**  
GOVERNOR



**KRISTY H. NICHOLS**  
SECRETARY

## State of Louisiana

Department of Social Services  
Office of the Secretary

June 16, 2010

Adm. Thad Allen, National Incident Commander  
Deepwater Horizon Response  
2100 Second Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20593-0001

Dear Adm. Allen,

I want to thank you and the Administration's Deepwater Horizon Response (DHR) for deploying Community Relations Outreach Teams to Louisiana's impacted coastal parishes. I am grateful that the Administration recognizes the need for economic support as federal and state authorities and Responsible Parties continue to respond to the Deepwater Horizon incident in the Gulf of Mexico.

As you continue to deploy resources to Louisiana's coast, we recommend that the DHR consider hiring local residents as liaisons or outreach team members and/or offer resources to local providers and community-based organizations best situated to respond to the needs in their communities.

As you know, the economic impact of the spill is estimated to reach almost 48,000 households in 14 parishes. Already, the spill has devastated families and businesses. It is imperative that we identify alternate employment opportunities and invest in the economic infrastructure of our coastal communities.

Federal and state response and recovery teams often work in partnership with community groups and local officials and agencies to reach impacted individuals and small businesses. Hiring impacted local citizens and community organizations is a natural fit and good strategy for recovery. In addition, allowing local team members to serve as a bridge between the DHR and leaders of Louisiana's close-knit coastal communities will lend important credence to the process.

Again, I thank you for all of the efforts and concern by the Administration to support local communities, both during the response and recovery phase of the Deepwater Horizon incident.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristy H. Nichols".

Kristy H. Nichols  
Secretary

KN/ac/pj